

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

February 21, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, David Hoover, Jerry Thibeau, Lionel Bailey, James "Jimmy" Little, Terry Louque, Don Thompson, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Burrell Carter, Willie George Lee, Anthony Rouchon, Larry Thomas, Tamiara Wade

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Babin.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
4. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Welborn to approve the January 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented.
5. Financial Statement Report:
 - Hoover presented to the Board the January 2017 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Bailey to approve the January 2017 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
6. Report by Executive Director:
 - Presentation by Rietschier: Rietschier said that the commissioners need to take the lead toward the development of a Floodplain Management Planning Process for the Amite River Basin. The Great Flood of 2016 emphasized the need for a basin wide approach. The Amite River Basin Commission is perfectly positioned to assume the role and it is necessary to develop a Floodplain Management Plan for that purpose.
 - In regard to the H&H Modeling for the basin, DOTD has selected a consultant to undertake this study and expects to have the model finished and calibrated within 18 months. The modeling capability will allow us to better assess projects, its impacts and benefits. The model will become an integral part of the Floodplain Management Process.
 - Status of CRDC Project. DOTD and ARBC are focusing efforts towards the utility relocations needed for the bridges of US Hwy. 61 in anticipation of obtaining federal funds for their construction. We also are acquiring properties in the McHugh Swamp area for right-of-way and environmental mitigation.
 - Susan Douglas, with DOTD, and Mike Grimmer with Cardno Consultants made a presentation of the status of the utility relocations along US Hwy. 61 at the crossing of the future channel.
 - Dr. John Day, a resident living in the vicinity of the Comite River in the Tucker Road area in Zachary, made a presentation in regard to erosion problems along this reach of the river that is threatening to impact his residence.
7. ARBC Legal Counsel: Letter to Editor from ARBC President Babin– Bankston urged Commissioners to contact local congressional delegation and ask for their help. This is out of the hands of the governor and in the hands of the congressional delegation and of the President as to whether or not we receive specific contributions to this project.
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business:
 - Maintenance of Property (mowing of grass) Contract: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, second by Hoover, to approve advertising for bids/RFP of said contract.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by Hoover to declare March 2017 as Flood Awareness Month.
10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin

Ben Babin, ARBC President

Date: March 21, 2017

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau

Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary